

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	PRELIMINARY ORDER OF
- v. -	:	FORFEITURE AS TO
	:	<u>SPECIFIC PROPERTY</u>
STEVEN HERNANDEZ,	:	
	:	S1 23 Cr. 564 (PAE)
Defendant.	:	
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WHEREAS, on or about December 18, 2023, STEVEN HERNANDEZ (the “Defendant”), was charged in a one-count Superseding Information, S1 23 Cr. 564 (PAE) (the “Information”), with possession of stolen mail, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708 (Count One);

WHEREAS, the Information included a forfeiture allegation as to Count One of the Information, seeking forfeiture to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), of any and all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense charged in Count One of the Information, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense charged in Count One of the Information;

WHEREAS, the Government seized from the Defendant the following specific property:

- a) Five checks seized on or about April 10, 2023, in the vicinity of 79th street and 3rd Avenue in New York, New York;
- b) 90 checks seized on or about May 5, 2023, in the vicinity of 480 Audubon Avenue in New York, New York; and
- c) 138 checks seized on or about October 5, 2023, in the vicinity of 928 College Avenue in the Bronx, New York.

(a through c., collectively, the “Specific Property”);

WHEREAS, on or about December 18, 2023, the Defendant pled guilty to Count One of the Information, pursuant to a plea agreement with the Government, wherein the Defendant admitted the forfeiture allegation with respect to Count One of the Information and agreed to forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), all right, title and interest of the Defendant in the Specific Property:

WHEREAS, the Government asserts that the Specific Property constitutes proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense charged in Count One of the Information that the Defendant personally obtained; and

WHEREAS, the Government seeks the forfeiture of all of the Defendant’s right, title and interest in the Specific Property, which constitute proceeds traceable to the offense charged in Count One of the Information that the Defendant personally obtained; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(g), and Rules 32.2(b)(3), and 32.2(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government is now entitled, pending any assertion of third-party claims, to reduce the Specific Property to its possession and to notify any and all persons who reasonably appear to be a potential claimant of their interest herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

1. As a result of the offense charged in Count One of the Information, to which the Defendant pled guilty, all of the Defendant’s right, title and interest in the Specific Property is

hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.

2. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property is final as to the Defendant STEVEN HERNANDEZ, and shall be deemed part of the sentence of the Defendant and shall be included in the judgment of conviction therewith.

3. Upon entry of this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property, the United States (or its designee) is hereby authorized to take possession of the Specific Property and to hold such property in its secure custody and control.

4. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n)(1), Rule 32.2(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Rules G(4)(a)(iv)(C) and G(5)(a)(ii) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, the United States is permitted to publish forfeiture notices on the government internet site, www.forfeiture.gov. This site incorporates the forfeiture notices that have been traditionally published in newspapers. The United States forthwith shall publish the internet ad for at least thirty (30) consecutive days. Any person, other than the Defendant, claiming interest in the Specific Property must file a Petition within sixty (60) days from the first day of publication of the Notice on this official government internet web site, or no later than thirty-five (35) days from the mailing of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

5. The published notice of forfeiture shall state that the petition (i) shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the petitioner's alleged interest in the Specific Property, (ii) shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury, and (iii) shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title or interest in the Specific Property, the time and circumstances

of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title and interest in the Specific Property, any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim, and the relief sought, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n).


6. Pursuant to 32.2 (b)(6)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government shall send notice to any person who reasonably appears to be a potential claimant with standing to contest the forfeiture in the ancillary proceeding.

7. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture with respect to the Specific Property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

8. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States Attorney's Office is authorized to conduct any discovery needed to identify, locate or dispose of forfeitable property, including depositions, interrogatories, requests for production of documents and the issuance of subpoenas.

9. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property, and to amend it as necessary, pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

SO ORDERED:



HONORABLE PAUL A. ENGELMAYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

3/21/24
DATE